



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE HILDA E. SANTIAGO**  
**ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER**  
**EIGHTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4111  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8811  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: [Hilda.Santiago@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Hilda.Santiago@cga.ct.gov)

**VICE CHAIR**  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
**MEMBER**  
BANKING COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Hilda Santiago, State Representative for the town of Meriden, Connecticut.

I am here today to support the Commission of Health equity to appoint an executive director and place the commission within the Insurance Department for administrative purposes as proposed by the Senate Bill 32. As I understand it the Commission on Health Equity is funded through the Department of Insurance which is funded through an assessment on insurance companies operating in the state therefore not saving money in this budget.

The Connecticut Commission on Health Equity was established to eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, gender and linguistic ability, thereby improving the quality of health for all of the state's residents. By being a commission independent of any particular state agency, CHE is able to provide oversight and possibly provide critique of state agencies if they are not meeting the desired level of health equity. In the last year the CHE has provided workshops for members of the community with a focus on health disparities. Although there was money provided in the 2015 budget it has not been appropriated and the commission has continued to exist and do its work.

The Commission on Health Equity is an essential component to eliminating disparities in health status. To do away with the hard work and progress put in by this committee would be hazardous, and the appointing of an executive director as well as placing the commission within the Insurance Department would be beneficial to the committee and to those it serves its purpose.

As a State Representative, specifically a representative who serves an extremely diverse population, eliminating health disparities is a part of our charge and we believe in the mission to eliminate health disparities in the state and ensure that all residents have access to equal health care. I urge you to support this change within the administrative duties of the Commission on Health Equity to allow this commission to continue to serve those who most need it.

Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda E. Santiago". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Hilda Santiago  
State Representative